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U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/014,720
Response to Office Action dated Nov. 1, 2007
Amendment dated Apr. 1, 2008

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning at page 3, line 1, as follows:

Typical lists for wedding financing are quite complex. Consider a typical list, set forth in FIGS. ~~1A and 1B~~ 1A, 1B and 1C.

Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning at page 3, line 2, as follows:

It would be desirable to attempt to automate the process of allocating, distributing and paying for the various items listed in FIGS. ~~1A and 1B~~ 1A, 1B and 1C thereby leaving the bride and groom and their respective family and friends with more time and energy available for things more important than worrying about who exactly pays for what at any given time.

Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning at page 3, line 18, as follows:

There are several problems with this type of event payment system. First, the traditional planning and payment method requires the bride and groom as well as their respective family members and guests to keep track of a wide range of intricate payment obligations as indicated in FIGS. ~~1A and 1B~~ 1A, 1B and 1C. This makes payments for events in general, and weddings in particular, subject to potential complications as well as possible conflict. The system as currently implemented does not offer event planners a systematic way to organize and collect payments and gifts, nor does it allow for new sources of revenue. Furthermore, the current system offers both event planners as well as vendors few informal options of recourse when obligations are not fully met (aside from proceeding with expensive and time consuming legal procedures.)

Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning at page 6, line 14, as follows:

Traditionally, tasks are broken down into the goal setting stage (step 310) in which basic questions are asked regarding the type of wedding desired. Once basic questions have been answered in step 310 the process proceeds to the early planning stage (step 312) in which basic style, location, approximate date and time, types of wedding, and wedding budget are formulated. Subsequent steps may occur at approximately 4 months prior (step 314), 3 months prior (step 316), 2 months prior (step 318), 1 months prior (step 320), 3 weeks prior (step 322), 2 weeks prior (step 324), 1 weeks prior (step 326), and last minute preparations (step 328) with typical tasks associated with these times set forth in FIGS. ~~1D~~ and 1E and 1F.

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Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning at page 6, line 28, as follows:

There are several problems inherent with this planning system. First, the traditional planning and payment method requires the bride and groom as well as their respective family members and guests to keep track of a wide range of complex activities as indicated in FIGS. ~~4D~~, 1E, 1F and 16. This makes planning for events in general, and weddings in particular, subject to potential complications as well as possible conflict. The system as currently implemented does not offer event planners a systematic way to collect, organize and integrate planning information, nor does it allow them to copyright and resell event planning information as intellectual property.

Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning at page 8, line 2, as follows:

In order to achieve these objects and others, the current invention enables an event organizer to save time and money and to derive income in the event planning process. Saving time is made possible by means of: a "Knowledge Template", also referred to as an "Information Template" herein, that integrates event-related elements into a single, all-encompassing event planning template, thereby reducing the time spent selecting and deciding on the inclusion of individual event related elements, and also by means of a "General Fund" that merges all event related income, expenses and loans into one central account, thereby reducing the amount of time needed to supervise and coordinate event-related cash flow. Saving money and deriving income is facilitated by: publishing prices for events which institutes price transparency and comparison shopping in the event planning marketplace, creating a "Knowledge Template" or an "Information Template" market that allows event organizers to obtain income from selling the rights to an event planning template to other event organizers, a "General Fund" that permits an event organizer the ability to generate and collect event-related income from, for example, the sale of advertising or broadcast rights, and, furthermore, facilitates the utilization of event related income (e.g., gifts) to directly offset event expenses.

Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning at page 8, line 32, as follows:

FIGS. ~~1A and 1B~~ 1A, 1B and 1C are lists of goods and services associated with a wedding with an indication of the traditional payor.

Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning at page 9, line 2, as follows:

FIGS. ~~4C and 1D~~ and 1E are wedding planning checklists itemizing goods and services for a wedding with an indication of the time frame for procuring them.

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Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning at page 9, line 4, as follows:

FIG. ~~4E~~ 1F shows a sample result from a search of wedding templates.

Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning at page 9, line 5, as follows:

FIGS. ~~4F and 1G~~ and 1H show sample results from a search of service templates.

Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning at page 9, line 6, as follows:

FIG. ~~4H~~ 1I shows a listing of vendors and pricing for a kitchen renovation template.

Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning at page 9, line 7, as follows:

FIGS. ~~4I, 1J and 1K~~ are material costs for a kitchen renovation.

Please delete the paragraph in the specification beginning at page 10, line 21.

Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning at page 10, line 23, as follows:

FIG. ~~26~~ 25 is a 3-dimensional representation of an eastern wall of a kitchen renovation template in accordance with one embodiment of the invention.

Please delete the paragraph in the specification beginning at page 10, line 25.

Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning at page 10, line 27, as follows:

FIG. ~~28~~ 26 is a 3-dimensional representation of a southern wall of a kitchen renovation template in accordance with one embodiment of the invention.

Please delete the paragraph in the specification beginning at page 10, line 29.

Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning at page 10, line 31, as follows:

FIG. ~~30~~ 27 is a 3-dimensional representation of a top down view of a kitchen renovation template in accordance with one embodiment of the invention.

Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning at page 26, line 15, as follows:

Seen in this light, the event engine may be viewed as a catalyst, a social catalyst. Just as enzymes lower the activation energy for chemical reactions, so too does the event engine reduces the amount of

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time and mental energy required to plan and create a social event. Just as an enzyme reduces the energy needed to create a chemical reaction, the event engine reduces the amount of steps necessary to create a social event from many (as indicated in FIGS. ~~4C~~, 1D, 1E and 16) to few (as shown in FIG. 17).

Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning at page 31, line 31, as follows:

Through this site, a consumer can peruse and browse knowledge templates in search of desired services and view those services in useful forms. The services can be classified by the type of event, the number of people expected for the event, the nature of the event, the theme of the event and/or the geographic location. In the case of a wedding, for example, the couple will not merely view the work of an individual caterer, band or dj (disc jockey). Rather, they will be able to view, in digital or analog form, the entire wedding. Thus, if a bride that wants a vegetarian, Scottish-style wedding for 150 guests within a 250 mile radius of her given zip code will be able to find, for example, the results of a sample knowledge template search indicated in FIG. ~~4E~~ 1F.

Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning at page 41, line 5, as follows:

Typical lists for wedding planning, for example, are quite complex. Consider a typical agenda, described in outline form in FIG. 14 and listed in greater detail in FIGS. ~~4G~~ and 1D and 1E.

Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning at page 41, line 11, as follows:

Utilizing the event planning method and system as illustrated in FIG. 17, the number of processes, and therefore the amount of time, that the couple has to spend on wedding planning and preparation as described in FIGS. ~~4G~~ and 1D and 1E, is greatly reduced. Utilizing a "Six Sigma" approach to the processes involved in event planning, significant time savings are provided to event organizers. Beyond the application of Six Sigma methodology to a new area-event planning, the event planning method and system also involves the creation of a new form of "bit engine."

Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning at page 46, line 32, as follows:

Using the service planning method described herein, the consumer will submit a confidential list of preferences to the cybermediary which will return a list of service templates to the consumer that match the submitted criteria. An example of such a service template is described in FIG. ~~4F~~ 1G with regard to e-services and in FIG. ~~4G~~ 1H with regard to the selection of multiple charitable organizations. In choosing a service template, as opposed to researching, contacting and contracting with individual

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vendors, the consumer saves time and money while, at the same time, choosing templates tailor made to suit their own individual preferences and lifestyles.

Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning at page 48, line 27, as follows:

An example of a kitchen renovation template is shown in the combination of FIGS. ~~1H, 1I, 1J~~ and ~~1K~~ 1I and 1J and FIGS. ~~25-30~~ 25-27. FIG. ~~1H~~ 1I describes and evaluates vendors who performed specific services. FIGS. ~~1I-1K~~ 1J list pricing information for merchandise purchased. FIGS. ~~25-30~~ 25-27 show different views of a kitchen renovation design.